of export subsidies and trade distorting domestic support given by developed countries, food security and rural development concerns of developing countries in agriculture negotiations, addressing the issue related to extension of protection of geographical indications to products other than wines and spirits, protecton of traditional knowledge & folklore, Public Health and access to medicines, clarification and improvement of disciplines relating to anti-dumping and subsidies and countervailing measures, special and differential treatment for developing countries and negotiations on market access-for non-agricultural products aimed at elimination of non-tariff barriers and tariff peaks and tariff escalations. On the Singapore issues relating to Investment, Competition Policy, Trade Facilitation and Transparency in Government Procurement, the Ministerial Conference decided to launch negotiations after the 5th Session of Ministerial Confrerence only on the basis of decisions to be taken at that session by "Explicit Consensus". On Environment, it was decided to initiate negotiations on some of the agenda items of the Committee on Trade & Environment; for all other items the study process has to continue. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) have supported the stand taken by India. India has now to participate at the WTO in the light of decision of the Ministerial Conference in close consultation with the stake-holders including, among others, the Industry & Trade, and keeping in view the national interests.

Decline in export of Tea

168. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sharp decline in the export of Tea during the current year as compared to last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details thereof as on date month-wise and country-wise; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) There has been a decline in export of tea in quantity and value terms during the period April-August, 2001

compared to the corresponding period last year. The details of export of tea are given below:—

Qty. in Mn. kgs.
Value in Rs. Crores

Period	2001-2002		2000-2001		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 2001-2002 over 2000-2001	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
April-August	77.70	696.81	85.86	803.22	-8.16	-106.41

(b) The reasons for decline in export of tea include increase in import duty on tea by various countries like Russian Federation, ban on import of tea into Iran, stiff competition from other exporting countries such as Sri Lanka, Kenya, Indonesia, China and Vietnam and setback in countries like UK, Poland, Canada, UAE, Iraq, Egypt, Libya, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Japan and Australia.

(c) The details on monthly export of tea from India are given below:—

Qty. in Mn. kgs
Value in Rs. Crores

Months	2001-2002		2000-2001	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
April	13.29	127.18	11.81	113.53
May	12.98	124.63	13.10	123.17
June	14.36	130.10	17.41	160.97
July	18.36	151.24	20.59	190.22
August	18.71	163.66	22.95	215.33

Export of tea from India to five major countries is given below:—

Qty. in Mn. kgs.
Value in Rs. Crores
Unit Price Rs. per kg

Name of the country	April to Aug. 2001* (Estimated)			April to Aug. 2000 (Actual)		
	Qty.	Value	Unit Price	Qty.	Value	Unit Price
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Russian Federation	30.34	198.88	65.55	34.03	225.55	66.28
United Arab Emirate	8.96	108.19	120.75	9.31	105.87	113.72

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
United Kingdom	7.19	70.62	98.22	9.62	99.86	103.80
Kazakhstan	4.83	48.83	101.10	2.82	29.91	106.06
USA	4.73	49.66	104.99	2.50	38.82	155.28
Others	21.65	220.63	101.86	27.58	303.21	109.93
TOTAL:	77.70	696.81	89.67	85.86	803.22	93.55

(d) The Government has taken various steps to boost the export of tea which include programmes on improving quality of Indian tea, creating consumer awareness of specialty Indian tea in select markets, participation in major trade exhibitions abroad, media campaigns, exchange of tea delegations, buyers seller meets, field sampling etc.

Development of Organic Tea

169. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to develop organic tea without the use of chemical pesticides;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the likely technical and financial assistance to be provided by Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) for the project; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to provide the new technology to tea growers in the country for development of organic tea and for generic promotion of tea, based on its health benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government has already taken several steps for development of the organic tea sector. The Tea Board has been declared the accrediting body for organic tea at the National level. In addition a project proposal for development, production and promotion of organic tea has been submitted by Tea Board for financial assistance from Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) an international body associated with the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO). The project is basically aimed at development of techniques and technology for the production of organic tea in India by setting up of model organic farms. The project would also develop acceptable international export standards for organic tea and put in place a